

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1137  
ANSWERED ON 13/12/2023**

**New Education Policy (NEP)**

1137. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details as to what extent the New Education Policy (NEP) emphasize the need of primary education in the mother tongue;
- (b) whether Government plans special incentives to the States to promote education in the respective language of the States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken in the NEP or otherwise to promote Sanskrit language and literature?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 has placed a strong emphasis on multilingual and multicultural education. Para 4.11 of NEP 2020 inter-alia, provides that wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, is to be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible.

Accordingly, based on the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage, 'Jaadui Pitara' -a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3-8 years has been launched on February 2023, designed to pique curiosity and accommodate the diverse needs of learners in the foundational stage. It comprises of playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flash cards, story books, worksheets as well as reflecting the local culture, social context and languages. For Jaadui Pitara the alphabet cards, number cards, Activity book Anand (for children) and 'Unmukh' (Trainer's Handbook) has been translated into 13 languages and

uploaded on DIKSHA, NCERT website and e-Pathshala. The Mathematics books for classes 1 and 2 have been translated into 22 languages.

Additionally, the department has conducted its first ever large-scale study to assess foundational skills of students in grade 3 during March and April, 2022 across all Indian States and Union Territories. The study was conducted in 20 languages covering nearly all medium of instruction in the country. It covered approximately 86,000 grade 3 students from 10,000 schools.

NEP 2020, while deliberating on language education in school underscores the need for recognising and promoting multilingualism as a path to realising the fundamental aims of education and schooling. In this regard, Bhasha Sangam has been launched by the NCERT which enables learners to learn and use 100 sentences in the 22 languages aiming to promote language learning and understanding others through schooling. The guidelines of Bhasha Sangam can be accessed at <https://ncert.nic.in/bs-2021.php>

In addition, National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement – NISHTHA- FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) online has been launched to train the teachers from Early Childhood care and Education (ECCE) upto grade V. It has 12 training modules including a dedicated module on Multilingual teaching in foundational years, which also covers usage of mother tongue / home language in teaching.

Para 4.17 of NEP 2020 states that Sanskrit is to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an important, enriching option for students, including as an option in the three-language formula. It will be taught in ways that are interesting and experiential as well as contemporarily relevant, including through the use of Sanskrit Knowledge Systems, and in particular through phonetics and pronunciation. Sanskrit textbooks at the foundational and middle school level may be written in Simple Standard Sanskrit (SSS) to teach Sanskrit through Sanskrit (STS) and make its study truly enjoyable.

Further, as per NEP 2020, implementation of the Policy requires multiple initiatives and actions, which are to be taken up in a synchronized and systematic manner, by multiple bodies including Ministry of Education, CAGE, State/UT Governments, education-related Ministries, State Departments of Education, Boards, NTA, the regulatory bodies of school and higher education, NCERT, SCERTs, schools and HEIs.

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